

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 98-241-C - ORDER NO. 98-431

JUNE 10, 1998

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IN RE: Application of HTC Communications, Inc. for) ORDER APPROVING
 Arbitration of an Interconnection Agreement) ARBITRATION PLAN
 with GTE South, Inc.)

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("the Commission") upon the filing by HTC Communications, Inc. ("HTC") of a Petition for Arbitration of an Interconnection Agreement with GTE South, Inc. ("GTE"). The Petition is filed pursuant to Section 252(b)(1) and (2) of the Communications Act of 1934 as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996. By its Petition, HTC asks the Commission to arbitrate and decide the open issues with respect to the negotiation of an interconnection agreement between HTC and GTE.

The instant docket was established in order to proceed with the requested arbitration, and certain scheduling is required in advance of the arbitration hearing. Therefore, the Commission adopts the following schedule and procedures for this arbitration proceeding:

1. The arbitration hearing in the instant docket shall begin at **11:00 a.m. on Monday, August 3, 1998.**
2. HTC shall prefile its testimony and exhibits in this matter on or before **July 6, 1998.**

3. GTE shall prefile its testimony and exhibits in this matter on or before **July 20, 1998**.
4. The parties to this proceeding are HTC and GTE. Any other entity or individual which the Commission may allow to enter the proceeding will be deemed a participant in the proceeding.
5. HTC and GTE, as well as any Participants who may be admitted, may submit a nonbinding list of questions to the “Arbitrator” (the Commission) on or before **July 27, 1998**.
6. Opening statements of the parties and the participants will be allowed at the beginning of the arbitration hearing.
7. Direct testimony, and exhibits from the Parties’ witnesses, shall be presented to the “Arbitrator” in a panel format (all witness will be sworn concurrently).
8. Examination of the witnesses shall be conducted by the “Arbitrator” or its designee. Examination of witnesses may be directed to specific witnesses or to the entire panel.
9. Closing statements by the Parties and the Participants will be allowed at the end of the hearing.

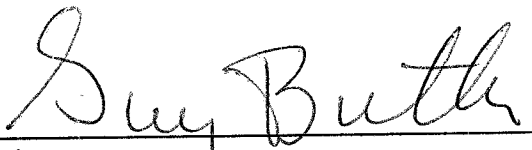
The Commission reserves the right to amend or to modify the plan and procedure for arbitration if it deems such action necessary. The Commission will follow the arbitration plan established in previous arbitration dockets.

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This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:



Deputy Executive Director

(SEAL)